



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/032,889 | 12/26/2001 | Bertram Geck | 2001 P 18373 US | 8303 |

7590 04/02/2007
Elsa Keller, Legal Assistant
SIEMENS CORPORATION
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

ROSE, KERRI M

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2616

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS | 04/02/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/032,889 | Applicant(s) GECK ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Kerri M. Rose | Art Unit 2616 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13-16 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13-16 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-12, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Bruno et al. (US 6,020,915) in view of Fenton et al. (US 5,619,555).

3. In regards to claim 1, Bruno discloses a virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:

- a. a communications server (figure 1.135; column 4 lines 47-61);
- b. a plurality of digital telephones connected to said communications server (fig. 1.101-104; col. 3 lines 46-64)
- c. at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to a public telephone network (1.118-120 and 1.30);
- d. a remotely connected device communicating with said communications server, said remotely connected device acting as a locally connected digital telephone (1.38; column 5 lines 50-59); and
- e. a remote telephone located in the vicinity of said remotely connected device, telephonic communications being provided to and from said remote telephone in cooperation with said communications server (1.136; column 5 lines 17-23, 50-59).

Art Unit: 2616

Bruno does not teach the remotely connected device controls the remote telephone or a virtual digital telephone.

Fenton teaches controlling a remote telephone by a remote device in column 5 lines 4-10. The remote device issues commands to the server. Without the commands the server will do nothing and therefore it can be concluded that the remote device controls the remote telephones by commanding and controlling the actions of the server. The remote device of Fenton acts as a locally connected digital telephone. A remote device may act as a locally connected digital phone when it uses a connection, such as LAN or PSTN, to connect to a server and an interface, such as TAPI, to access features of the server. Fenton's remote device connects to the server using a LAN, PSTN or other modem connection (fig. 1.14; col. 5 lines 1-3) and uses an interface, which is analogous to TAPI to access features of the server (col. 5 lines 25-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the remote telephones taught by Bruno with the GUI and remote devices taught by Fenton because the GUI provides numerous additional functions (Fenton col. 3 lines 4-36), which is desired by Bruno (col. 2 lines 20-22).

Applicant in lines 13-16 on page 4 of the specification defined a virtual digital telephone as the combination of a remote device and a remote telephone. The combination of a remote device and remote telephone taught by Bruno and Fenton therefore must be defined as a virtual digital telephone.

4. In regards to claim 3, Bruno and Fenton disclose a VPCN as in claim 1 wherein said remotely connected device is a web enabled device connected over the Internet (column 5 line 20; column 8 lines 18-20), said VPCN further comprising: a web server connected to said

Art Unit: 2616

communications server and the Internet (figure 3.301; 3.306; column 8 lines 22-25, 36-37, 42-44, 57-63).

5. In regards to claim 4, Bruno and Fenton disclose a VPCN as in claim 3 wherein said web enabled device is a personal computer (PC) (column 5 line 20; column 8 lines 18-20).

6. In regards to claim 5, Bruno and Fenton disclose a VPCN as in claim 4 wherein said PC includes a modem connecting said PC to the Internet (column 5 line 20 indicates the PC is connected with a modem).

7. In regards to claim 6, Bruno and Fenton disclose a VPCN as in claim 1 wherein said communications server is a PBX server providing said digital telephone features, said digital telephone features comprising: a call connection processing feature; an incoming call indication feature. In order for a conference to be established the call must be connected. In order for the call to be connected there must be an indication and acknowledgment of an incoming call. Therefore call connection processing and incoming call indication must be inherent features.

Fenton discloses a PBX server in column 4 lines 65 and 66. Fenton discloses the features a device has access through by using the computer (remote device) in column 3 lines 20-46.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a PBX server, as taught by Fenton, in the network taught by Bruno because doing so results in an improved conferencing system where users have full access to features but do not need the assistance of an operator, as taught in column 3 lines 47-60 of Fenton.

8. In regards to claim 9, Bruno discloses a virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:

- f. a communications server (figure 1.135; column 4 lines 47-61);

Art Unit: 2616

- g. a web server connected to said communications server and the Internet (figure 3.301; 3.306; column 8 lines 22-25, 36-37, 42-44, 57-63);
- h. a plurality of digital telephones connected to said communications server (1.101-104; column 3 lines 46-64);
- i. at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to a public telephone network (1.118-120 and 1.30);
- j. a remotely connected web enabled devices communicating with said communications server, said remotely connected devices each acting as a locally connected digital telephone (1.38; column 5 lines 20, 50-59; column 8 lines 18-20); and
- k. a remote telephone located in the vicinity of each of said remotely connected web enabled devices, telephonic communications being provided to said digital telephones from remote telephones in cooperation with said communications server (1.136; column 5 lines 17-23, 50-59).

Bruno does not disclose a plurality of remotely connected web enabled devices. Bruno does not teach the remotely connected web enabled device controls the remote telephone. Bruno does not disclose the remote telephones simultaneously communicating with the digital telephones and receiving commands from the web enabled devices. Bruno does not disclose the communications server is a PBX server and the devices have access to all the PBX features.

Fenton teaches controlling a remote telephone by a remote device in column 5 lines 4-10. The remote device issues commands to the server. Without the commands the server will do nothing and therefore it can be concluded that the remote device controls the remote telephones by commanding and controlling the actions of the server. The remote device of Fenton acts as a

Art Unit: 2616

locally connected digital telephone. A remote device may act as a locally connected digital phone when it uses a connection, such as LAN or PSTN, to connect to a server and an interface, such as TAPI, to access features of the server. Fenton's remote device connects to the server using a LAN, PSTN or other modem connection (fig. 1.14; col. 5 lines 1-3) and uses an interface, which is analogous to TAPI to access features of the server (col. 5 lines 25-64). Figure 9 of Fenton discloses that the GUI continues to issue controlling commands as the conference between the remote telephones and the digital telephones continues.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the remote telephones taught by Bruno with the GUI and remote devices taught by Fenton because the GUI provides numerous additional functions (Fenton col. 3 lines 4-36), which is desired by Bruno (col. 2 lines 20-22).

The fully equipped endpoints taught by Bruno require a telephone, PC, and video camera. It is well known by those in the art that a telephone and PC are common equipment owned by a vast majority of people. It is also well known that a PC equipped with a video camera, on the other hand, is a more specialized piece of equipment owned by comparably few people. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow a plurality of the remotely connected enabled devices to be connected to the conferences taught by Bruno, because many people do not own a multimedia endpoint (voice, video, and data).

Fenton discloses a PBX server in column 4 lines 65 and 66. Fenton discloses the features a device has access through by using the computer (remote device) in column 3 lines 20-46.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a PBX server, as taught by Fenton, in the network taught by Bruno because doing so results in an improved

Art Unit: 2616

conferencing system where users have full access to features but do not need the assistance of an operator, as taught in column 3 lines 47-60 of Fenton.

9. Claim 10 is rejected upon the same grounds as claim 4.

10. In regards to claim 11, Bruno discloses a VPCN as in claim 10 wherein at least one PC includes a modem connecting to the Internet (column 5 line 20 indicates the PC is connected with a modem), said at least one PC being connected to the web server over the Internet (figure 3 shows the PC 138 is connected to both servers 306 and 301 through the Internet 304).

11. Claim 12 is rejected upon the same grounds as claim 6.

12. In regards to claim 15, Bruno discloses a method for communicating with a private communications network, said method comprising the steps of: a) connecting a remotely located web enabled device to a communications server (figure 1 shows the remote device 138 connected to the communication server 135 through line 130); and b) initiating calls at the communications server from and to a remote telephone in the vicinity of said remotely located web enabled device (column 5 lines 50-63 describe the method for establishing a data exchange call that is initiated and controlled by the remote device).

Bruno does not teach the remotely connected web enabled device initiating and controlling the remote telephone. Bruno does not disclose having access to all communication server features.

Fenton teaches initiating a call and controlling a remote telephone by a remote device in column 5 lines 4-10. The remote device issues commands to the server. Without the commands the server will do nothing and therefore it can be concluded that the remote device controls the remote telephones by commanding and controlling the actions of the server. The remote device

Art Unit: 2616

of Fenton acts as a locally connected digital telephone. A remote device may act as a locally connected digital phone when it uses a connection, such as LAN or PSTN, to connect to a server and an interface, such as TAPI, to access features of the server. Fenton's remote device connects to the server using a LAN, PSTN or other modem connection (fig. 1.14; col. 5 lines 1-3) and uses an interface, which is analogous to TAPI to access features of the server (col. 5 lines 25-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the remote telephones taught by Bruno with the GUI and remote devices taught by Fenton because the GUI provides numerous additional functions (Fenton col. 3 lines 4-36), which is desired by Bruno (col. 2 lines 20-22).

Fenton discloses having access to all the server features and a list of the features in column 3 lines 20-46.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have access to all features of the server, as taught by Fenton, in the network taught by Bruno because doing so results in an improved conferencing system where users have full access to features but do not need the assistance of an operator, as taught in column 3 lines 47-60 of Fenton.

13. In regards to claim 16, Bruno and Fenton disclose a method as in claim 15 wherein the step (a) of connecting the remotely located web enabled device comprises the steps of: i) calling an Internet service provider; ii) negotiating a modem connection with said Internet service provider; and iii) connecting to a web server connected to said communications server, (These steps are inherent for connecting to the Internet using a modem and 56 kbps line (disclosed column 4 line 4)) calls to said remote telephone being controlled by said web enabled device in

Art Unit: 2616

real time (figs. 4, 7, and 9 of Fenton illustrate the control steps of the GUI which are executed in real time).

14. In regards to claim 20, Bruno discloses a virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:

- l. a communications server (figure 1.135; column 4 lines 47-61);
- m. at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to a public telephone network (1.118-120 and 1.30);
- n. a remotely connected device communicating with said communications server, said remotely connected device acting as a locally connected digital telephone (1.38; column 5 lines 50-59); and
- o. a remote telephone located in the vicinity of said remotely connected device, telephonic communications being provided to and from said remote telephone in cooperation with said communications server (1.136; column 5 lines 17-23, 50-59).

Bruno does not teach the remotely connected device controls the remote telephone or having access to all communication server features.

Fenton teaches controlling a remote telephone by a remote device in column 5 lines 4-10. The remote device issues commands to the server. Without the commands the server will do nothing and therefore it can be concluded that the remote device controls the remote telephones by commanding and controlling the actions of the server. The remote device of Fenton acts as a locally connected digital telephone. A remote device may act as a locally connected digital phone when it uses a connection, such as LAN or PSTN, to connect to a server and an interface, such as TAPI, to access features of the server. Fenton's remote device connects to the server

Art Unit: 2616

using a LAN, PSTN or other modem connection (fig. 1.14; col. 5 lines 1-3) and uses an interface, which is analogous to TAPI to access features of the server (col. 5 lines 25-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the remote telephones taught by Bruno with the GUI and remote devices taught by Fenton because the GUI provides numerous additional functions (Fenton col. 3 lines 4-36), which is desired by Bruno (col. 2 lines 20-22).

Fenton discloses having access to all the server features and a list of the features in column 3 lines 20-46.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have access to all features of the server, as taught by Fenton, in the network taught by Bruno because doing so results in an improved conferencing system where users have full access to features but do not need the assistance of an operator, as taught in column 3 lines 47-60 of Fenton

15. Claims 7, 8, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno et al. (US 6,020,915) in view of Fenton et al. (US 5,619,555) further in view of Weinstein et al. (US 2001/0026609).

16. In regards to claims 7 and 13, Bruno and Fenton disclose a VPCN as in claims 1 or 9, but not wherein said remotely connected device is a wireless access protocol (WAP) device connected over the Internet.

Weinstein discloses a WAP device connected to the Internet in paragraph 8 on page 1.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Bruno's remote call placement system to include WAP enable devices because doing so would eliminate the

Art Unit: 2616

need for a computer to act as the remotely connected device. A computer, even a laptop model, is more cumbersome to carry around and more expensive. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to use a smaller, less expensive device in remote and therefore mobile environments.

17. In regards to claims 8 and 14, Bruno, Fenton, and Weinstein disclose a VPCN as in claims 7 or 13 wherein said WAP is a personal digital assistant (PDA) with a wireless connection to the Internet. Paragraph 8 on page 1 discloses an Internet connected PDA. It does not explicitly disclose that the PDA uses WAP, but WAP was developed in order to connect PDAs to the Internet and therefore the PDA is inherently WAP-enabled.

Response to Arguments

18. Finality of the previous rejection is withdrawn.

19. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, and 7-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kerri M. Rose whose telephone number is (571) 272-0542. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris H. To can be reached on (571) 272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

kmr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doris H. To', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DORIS H. TO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600